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COUNTRY Hungary

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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TOPIC 25th Rifle Regiment

REMARKS

Document No. 019

No Change in Class. ☐☐ Declassified

Class. Change: [REDACTED] S (C)

Auth: RM 10-2

Date: 1 AUG 1951

By: [REDACTED]

Location.

1. From the fall of 1949 to early March 1950, the 25th Rifle Regt, [REDACTED] was quartered in a barracks installation at Tapolcza (Y 4/D 35) airfield. In early May 1950, it moved to a tent camp 200 to 300 north of the barracks installation, where it stayed until early June. During this period, an officers' training course was conducted in the barracks installation at the airfield. On 2 June 1951, the regiment moved by rail to Nagykoerces (Q 48/O 06) and was quartered in a tent camp in Csokas erdoe, about 5 km west-northwest of Nagykoerces.

2. On 20 October 1950, the 25th Rifle Regt was broken up into two units which were shipped to Szeged (Y 7/T 17) and Baja (Y 6/S 28) and became the cadre of one new rifle regiment activated at each post. In November 1950, [REDACTED] the new regiment in Szeged was commanded by Senior Lieutenant Gabor Botond, formerly deputy commanding officer of the 25th Rifle Regt, and received many recruits in late October 1950. The new regiment in Baja was quartered in a barracks installation on the western edge of the town. Soldiers said that the two new rifle regiments in Szeged and Baja were so-called alert regiments. (1)

3. Prior to 2 June 1950, the 25th Rifle Regt had a cadre personnel of about 200, and between 800 and 900 young EM. On 3 and 4 July, it received about 500 soldiers from Keszthely (Y 4/V 40) and Zalaegerszeg (Y 4/V 10). The regiment had no Soviet instructors.

Organization and Personnel.

4. The regimental headquarters was staffed by Major Karoly Alpary, commanding officer; Senior Lieutenant Gabor Botond, deputy commanding officer; Senior Lieutenant Gyorgy Nemet, political officer; Lieutenant Andras Szoek, commanding officer of the regimental headquarters units; Junior Lieutenant Karoly Csordas, commanding officer of the regimental headquarters personnel; Lieutenant Boros, (fnu), adjutant; Lieutenant Colonel Suetoe, (fnu), supply officer, who was assisted by a Captain Nadudvary, (fnu); a regimental surgeon; a regimental ordnance officer; and Senior Lieutenant Liptok, (fnu), commanding officer of the regimental artillery. Major Mol, (fnu), joined the regiment in August 1950, but his assignment could not be determined. (2)

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5. The headquarters units of the regiment were:

- a. A signal company, [redacted] commanded by Lieutenant Molnar, (fnu), and organized into a headquarters and 3 platoons. It consisted of 3 officers, including Lieutenant Voelgyi, (fnu), 4 NCOs, and about 100 EM who wore dark-blue service color.
- b. A mortar company consisting of 3 officers and about 80 NCOs and EM who wore red service color. Lieutenant Balogh, (fnu), was the commanding officer of the company and Lieutenant Karoly Szabo political officer.
- c. A heavy AA machine gun company, [redacted] organized into a headquarters and 3 platoons and consisting of 4 officers, 2 NCOs and about 90 EM who wore red service color with white pipings. The officers of the company were Lieutenant Jozsef Nagy, commanding officer; Lieutenant Gyula Glatz, political officer; and Junior Lieutenants Imre Vig and Gyula Virag, platoon leaders.
- d. An artillery battery, commanded by Lieutenant Vizy, (fnu), consisting of 2 officers, 1 NCO, and about 50 EM who wore red service color.
- e. A parachute company, commanded by Lieutenant Jozsef Bako, of about 80 men who wore green service color with white pipings.
- f. A technical platoon, commanded by Lieutenant Kos, (fnu), made up of soldiers who wore dark-green service color.

In addition, the regiment had eight rifle companies, whose organization was unknown [redacted] Officers of these companies included Senior Lieutenants Forgok (fnu), Susan, (fnu), and Seregi, (fnu); and Lieutenants Bognar, (fnu), Buzas, (fnu), Papp, (fnu), and Karoly Dobos. The last two were political officers. (3)

Equipment.

6. All units of the regiment were armed with model M/48 7.62-mm rifles. Squad leaders had submachine guns with drum magazine. Other weapons observed with the regiment included an undetermined number of light machine guns with drum magazines, 12 heavy Maxim machine guns, 12 to 15 light mortars, and 6 x 120-mm mortars mounted on rubber tires and towed by 3-ton Raba Trucks.
7. The AA machine gun company was originally equipped with 12 x 12.7-mm AA machine guns which, however, were subsequently reduced to 6. The machine guns had an effective range of up to 1,500 meters when firing against aircraft or groups of parachutists and pierced 16-mm armor plates at a distance of 500 meters. The machine guns weighed 180 kg with mount and were transported on 1 1/2-ton trucks. Their crews consisted of 1 section leader, 2 gunners, and 1 ammunition bearer. The AA machine gun company had three 1 1/2-ton trucks.
8. The regiment was equipped with about 50 motor vehicles, most of them 1 1/2 ton trucks. (4)

Training.

9. [redacted]

The latter target practice required that five shots be fired at a small dummy aircraft suspended at a distance of 100 meters.

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10. From 23 July to 5 August 1950, a large-scale AAA exercise involving about 1,000 soldiers was held in the area northwest of Nograd (Q 48/H 57). [redacted] company commander said that all AAA units of the Hungarian Army participated in this exercise. [redacted] 50 to 60 AA machine guns and about 15 AA guns on 4-wheel mounts. Also river guard troops wearing dark-blue or black service color and tank troops wearing blue service color were observed with their AA machine guns. The AA machine gun company of the 25th Rifle Regt, with all its vehicles, was shipped by rail to Nograd and participated in two record practices. During the first, several bursts were fired at silhouette targets at a distance of 500 meters. During the second, 30 to 40 rounds were fired at a kite held at distances ranging from 500 to 1,000 meters. The AA guns of other units fired at ground targets and kites.

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11. During the period from 15 to 20 August 1950, the entire 25th Rifle Regt engaged in a road march of two days. On three days in late August 1950, the regiment held a defense exercise in the area north and east of Nagykoeroes. One week in early September 1950, the regiment [redacted] a field exercise in the area between Kecskemet (Y 6/N 95) [redacted] [redacted] (Y 7/O 03) practicing approach march, taking up of positions [redacted] four tanks which participated in the exercise were [redacted] by fellow-soldiers as T-34s. The field exercise was based on the assumption that Yugoslav troops who had crossed into southern Hungary were to be contained and repulsed across the border. On completion of the exercise, the regiment returned in two sections to the Csakas forest in its own vehicles.

12. During the period from 10 to 22 September 1950, the regiment participated in a divisional exercise in the Kecskemet-Kiskunfelegyhaza-Baja area. The regiment was joined by other infantry, AAA and signal units in Nagykoeroes. A soldier of an infantry unit said that his unit had come from Szekesfehervar (Q 48/Z 00). Eight T-34 tanks joined the march column in Kecskemet. On 12 September 1950, the division rested at Kiskunmajsa (Y 6/N 50) and, on 15 September, it advanced from the area south of Kiskunhalas (Y 6/N 70) toward Jankovacz (Janoshalma) (Y 6/S 59). After marching about 10 km, the troops entrenched and remained in their positions until 18 September, awaiting a simulated Yugoslav enemy that had crossed into southern Hungary. On 18 September, when the division reached the Jankovacz-Baja road, [redacted] was picked up by trucks driven by civilians and hauled to Baja. There it moved into a barracks installation which was located on the western edge of the town and guarded by soldiers who wore green service color. The division crossed the Danube River at Baja three times on ferries, floats and boats and on 22 September, terminated the divisional exercise by a parade before the minister of national defense in Csavoly (Y 6/S 48). The 25th Rifle Regt then returned to Nagykoeroes by rail.

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Pay, Rations, and Clothing.

13. A private was paid 22 forints every ten days, a private first class 26 forints, a corporal 32 forints and a staff lance corporal 38 forints. An NCO was paid 650 forints per month, a junior lieutenant about 900 forints and a lieutenant 1,200 forints. Food was good and sufficient and the ration allowance was 6 forints a day. Clothing issued to each soldier included 1 overcoat, 1 pair of wool trousers, 1 wool service coat, 1 denim coat, 2 pairs of denim trousers, 1 cap, 2 pairs of low boots, and 3 sets of underwear. When fully equipped, the soldiers carried packs with 1 blanket, 1 shelter half, 1 overcoat and 1 steel helmet strapped on them.

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Comments.

(1) It cannot be determined whether one of the two newly activated regiments [redacted] a rifle [redacted]

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regiment as being stationed in Szeged. [redacted] The designation "alert regiments" indicates that the troops must be ready for immediate action. This appears probable in view of the proximity of the border.

- (2) In January 1949, a [redacted] (fnu), was supply officer of the then 1st Inf [redacted]
- (3) The report confirms [redacted] troops in a Hungarian infantry regiment have their [redacted] the regimental companies have [redacted] These two facts have not been [redacted] the countries. It is doubted that a parachute [redacted] ally assigned to a rifle regiment. The parachute [redacted] present report probably was only temporarily attached to the 25th Rifle Regt for training purposes.
- (4) The number of motor vehicles indicates that the 25th Rifle Regt was motorized. Also the two rifle regiments newly activated in Baja and Szeged in October 1950 are probably motorized.

Annex: 1 [redacted]

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